

able to bring the ties of brotherhood closer among them, and to induce them to assist each other from motives of benevolence.

The first object was to establish among them equality of property and mediocrity of private wealth in consequence of which, the Sabbatic and Jubilee years were established; the former to take place every seven, and the latter every fifty years. The Sabbatic year abolished all debts, and the Jubilee restored all the property which had been sold or alienated. It was easy to foresee that difference of soil, more or less industry, and the common calamities of life, which would occur, would naturally produce inequality of property, and that the unfortunate Israelite, would require the assistance of the more fortunate. Moses did not wish that the latter should profit by the misfortune of the former, and that he should increase his misfortune, by making him pay for the aid which the unfortunate should be compelled to ask, and become more opulent, as the other became poorer, and therefore he says, "you shall not lend on interest to your brother." But what loans could the Jews make to each other in times like those; they had no commerce, and but little money was in circulation, and when property was more equally divided? It could be nothing else but a few bushels of grain, some cattle, or a few utensils of husbandry, which Moses commanded to be loaned gratis. He wished his people to be a people of husbandmen. Long after the time of Moses, and although Judea was situated near the sea, inhabited by the Tyrians, Syrians, and other commercial and maritime people, the Hebrews did not engage in commerce. All the ordinances of the legislator seem to divert them from commerce.

This prohibition of Moses is therefore not to be considered as a principle of commerce, but merely as a principle of charity; according to the Talmud the loan is only considered as neighborly, and as granted to one in want; if it was granted to a merchant, and if he was a Jew, it would be lawful to grant it under the condition of advantage, equivalent to the risk. The word usury had formerly no opprobrious significance, it merely signified any interest. A simple loan on interest, was not only prohibited between Jews, but between Jews and persons of other religions. It must be free and gratuitous, whenever it has for its object to serve him who required it, and was not made for the purposes of commerce.

It ought however to be remembered, that these wise and wholesome regulations, were made at a remote period from the present, and when the Jews existed as a nation of the world.

But when this unhappy people were dispersed among the nations of the earth, the duties and obligations imposed on them by their legislator, while in Palestine, naturally ceased with the changes of their condition, and although they delight in the principles of the law, yet as the reasons for the law have ceased, they do not now hesitate to lend money on interest to trading Jews, as well as other persons of different religions.

Ques. 12.—Does the law prohibit, or does it permit the Jews to lend money on usury, to strangers?

Ans.—We have shown in the answer preceding, that usury considered as the smallest interest, is less a principle of commerce, than of charity and benevolence, and in this view it is equally prohibited by Moses, and by the Talmud, and this prohibition extends as well to our own countrymen, who do not profess the Jewish religion, as to those who do. The spirit of the law, which permits us to take interest from a stranger, evidently applies to the nations with whom we are engaged in commerce, otherwise a palpable contradiction would be perceived in the following, and twenty other passages of the holy writings—"love the stranger, because the Lord our God loves the stranger, give him food and raiment.—There shall be but one law for you, and for the stranger, who resides among you. Let justice be equally administered to the stranger as among yourselves. Cursed be he that doeth the least wrong to the stranger, treat the stranger as yourself."

The restriction then was applicable to the stranger, who resided in Israel; the scripture puts him under the safety of God.—The stranger is a sacred guest, whom God has commanded us to treat as the widow and the orphan. It is evident then, that the text which says, "extraneo foreverabilem et fratri tuo non fueris," is to be applied only to foreign nations, with whom we are engaged in commerce; and in this sense the scripture while allowing interest to be taken from the stranger, does not mean excessive interest, oppressive to him who pays, and scandalous to him who receives it. "Non levisse Israeliticis, say the Doctors, usuras immoderatas recipere ab extraneo, etiam divitibus, res est per se nota."

Moses in being the legislator of the Jews, was not so for the world. The laws which he gave to the people confided to him by God, could not be supposed to be laws for all the world. "You shall not take any interest from your brethren." What security had he that in the relations which were to be formed between the Jews and foreign nations, that the latter would renounce the customs of commerce, and lend the Jews without interest; it could not be supposed that he would sacrifice the interests of his own people who were poor, for the purpose of enriching foreign nations. It is absurd to blame him for the restriction made in his precept of the Duteconomy. What legislator would not have considered it as a principle of natural reciprocity? How greatly superior in this instance is the legislation of Moses, how much more simple, more noble, more just, and more humane than that of the Greeks and Romans.—Were there ever seen among the ancient Jews, any of those scandalous and cruel scenes occasioned by inexorable creditors? Were there among the Greeks and Romans, any of those frequent abolition of debts, for the purpose of saving numbers of miserable people, reduced to wretchedness and driven to despair by the exactions of the Praetors? as were seen among the Jew?

The legislation of Moses, and its interpreters have with a laudable philanthropy distinguished the different uses of borrowed money. If it is borrowed for the sup-

port of the family, the interest is prohibited. It is permitted when the loan is made for commercial purposes, which endanger the capital of the lender. This interest is permitted even from Jew to Jew. Lend to the poor says Moses, gratitude is in this case the only interest, and the reward for the service rendered is the satisfaction of having rendered it. It is quite different with regard to the rich who employ large capital in extensive trade; in this case he allows the lender to become an associate with the borrower; and since there was scarcely any trade among the Israelites, who were exclusively engaged in agriculture, and since what trade there was, was carried on with foreigners, that is to say, with neighboring nations, it was to partake with them in the profits arising therefrom.

This caused M. de Clermont Tonnerre to deliver these remarkable words in the constituent assembly. "Usury, it is said, is permitted to the Jews. This assertion rests only on the false interpretation of a principle of benevolence and fraternity, which forbids them to lend on interest to each other. This opinion, is that of Puffendorf and of many Jurists. It is incontrovertible that interest is permitted among Jews when it is for mercantile purposes in which the lender, by running a share of the hazards, which the borrower runs, associates himself also with him for his profits. This is the opinion of all the Jewish doctors."

It may be noticed that the opinion contrary to social morality which a Rabbi may have given, can by no means induce one to judge unfavorably of the Jewish doctrine in general: no more than similar ideas by Catholic Theologians, would influence the Evangelical doctrines.

The same may be said of the imputation spread against the Hebrews, that they have a propensity for the infamous trade of usury. It cannot be denied that there are some, yet a very insignificant number, who follow that shameful commerce prohibited by the law, but if very few deviate in that regard from the law, is it not unjust to charge 100,000 individuals with the same vice? Would it not be unjust to charge all the Christians with the same because some are guilty thereof?

PARIS, Sept. 20.
Europe now every moment exhibits a spectacle more and more strange to the attention of observers. On whatever side we turn our eyes, we find contradictions to explain and problems to resolve.

England still testifies a desire of making peace, and her writers never cease preaching the prosecution of the war; she prepares distant military expeditions, at the very time that she keeps a negotiator of the first distinction at Paris.

Russia has just refused the peace she had demanded; and is condemned to inaction as long as she is bereft of a field of battle whereon to seize again the advantages and the military renown she has lost.

Prussia is at war only with Sweden, but their warfare has more the appearance of a squabble among citizens, than of a contest between kings. And, however, she is augmenting her armies, and making such preparations as would make one think she proposes nothing less than to attack the first power of Europe.

Whilst these three potentates are separately discussing their interests with France, they seem to be combining a common alliance. But they are among themselves in a false, uncertain and wavering position, before an enemy whose policy is fixed and whose force depends upon himself alone.

We should be less astonished to behold Russia and England concerting means of attack against an enemy whom they should equally have to engage. But can the cause, the interests and the principles of Prussia, ever agree with those of England and Russia? The past proves the contrary, and the future will no doubt confirm the experience of the past.

Is Prussia in a more favorable position with regard to those with whom she wishes to unite to-day, and against the enemy whom she should dare to affront? Does she really mean to turn her arms against the power who has supported her for these fifteen years past against the hatred, envy and indignation of all the states of Europe? Does she again intend to deceive allies by clandestine engagements, which she means to break, at a favorable moment? or is she in her turn falling into a snare which they are laying for her, to be revenged of her past conduct?—Public opinion has only the alternative of this double sentiment until time removes the veil which yet conceals the truth.

In solid policy, the resolution, for Prussia, to be the focus, and the advanced post of a continental war, seems as dangerous as it is tardy.—She set out in the war of the revolution by a defection, which from that moment betrayed her system. As long as Austria and France kept an equilibrium, she quietly reaped the fruit of her crooked, avaricious and fluctuating policy; but Austria once conquered, Prussia necessarily lost the importance of a mediatrix whom they equally managed perhaps at the same time that they both equally despised her. In these principles she bore no power a sincere friendship; and none will doubt but that she would have again pursued the same system, had the same circumstances again presented themselves. This should serve as a compass in the negotiations which any power may embark in with her.

The Prussian cabinet, although fortunate in its speculations, has still made less dupes than it thinks. France has paid for its neutrality in such a manner as to show it was sincere; but she thought this complaisance more conformable to her interests and better calculated to restore the general peace of Europe. She did like that Lacedaemonian general, who seeing a corps of young men disposed to deliver up a post to the enemy, contented himself with assigning them another, where he took care to have them watched. What other cabinet could Prussia deceive; is it that of St. James's, when, instead of sharing the dangers as she shared the project of the last war, she stole into the field after the battle, to carry off the fruits of the victory, and to share the spoils of the vanquished? She still keeps Hanover, and yet she would meditate an alliance with England? Her ports are still blockaded by the Swedes, and yet she would call them to her succor! She would

invoke the support of the Emperor Alexander, who she is just after abandoning in the dangers she had promised to share! It is difficult sincerely to accord those who have so often deceived and have such cruel reproaches to make each other. The sores are still bleeding. Accordingly, the most moderate English writers can place no faith in this monstrous alliance. The successors of Prussia appears to them like the wooden horse; they tremble to receive her benefits. Thus notwithstanding the positive assertions even of the Berlin papers, we cannot yet believe the sudden change wrought in Prussia, because every thing points out to her the obligation of attaching herself more closely than ever to France. With the friendship of this power, she might cover the wrongs she had done to the others; with her succor she was to preserve the advantages obtained, without drawing her sword.—By taking another road, by disregarding to such a degree her position and her interests, she would expose her existence and the remains of her glory. Her inevitable fall in an unequal contest, might afford favorable compensations at the re-establishment of general tranquility, might satisfy the resentment of the betrayed powers, leave a great example, and show that there are in policy, as in morality, truths and duties which divine Providence sooner or later punishes the infraction of.—Argus.

LONDON, Sept. 18.

DREADFUL CATASTROPHE.

Accounts have been received of a most terrible accident having happened at Malta. On the 18th of July (some of the letters say on the 15th) a magazine, containing nearly 400 barrels of gunpowder and a number of shells, grenades, and other combustibles, blew up and caused incredible mischief. Upwards of 1400 inhabitants are reported to have been killed or dreadfully mangled, a number of houses were destroyed, and some damage done to the ships in the harbor. The following is a copy of one of the letters that have been received.

MALTA, July 18.

PRIVATE LETTER.

"I now come to relate to you an event of the most melancholy description, and almost unparalleled in regard to the dreadful and miserable consequences. It happened this morning. A magazine took fire, and blew up with an explosion scarcely ever known to be equalled; by it 370 barrels of gunpowder and above 1600 shells and grenades, were blown up. Such an immense quantity as 40,000 lbs. of gunpowder must occasion the most dreadful havoc and destruction. The houses adjacent in every direction were blown immediately into ruins—and how shocking it was to the inhabitants you may easily conceive, as there was no chance of escaping. The buildings are all of stone, of an immense thickness. It is calculated that one thousand persons have either perished or are dreadfully maimed. The principal sufferers are the Maltese, who chiefly lived near the place. One man has lost his wife and six children—others nearly the same; and whole families are buried together. Those who escaped momentary death perhaps, are shockingly disfigured and maimed, and crawling about in a miserable condition.—Fourteen artillerymen, who were in the magazine, were of course blown to atoms.—The band of a regiment (the 39th) were just playing 'God save the King' near the place—two men were killed on the spot—the whole remainder were much wounded. The guards on duty were killed. The magazine is situated on the side of the water opposite to the city of Valetta; it is called Barroola. Stones were thrown over to us, some to the distance of two miles. It was situated close to the water side, and the bed of the sea was so shook by it, that it rose up and overflowed the banks. Two vessels (small ones) were sunk. Immense stones were thrown up, which fell into the water; others on the ships and rigging; one I saw which fell on a vessel just arrived, weighed an hundred weight. The guard ship, the Madras man of war, is moored some distance from the disastrous place; but a stone fell on the quarter deck, and broke the thigh of the gunner, who had lately arrived. A Mr. Woodhouse here, who, with his brother, has a great wine making concern in Sicily, has lost two hundred and fifty pipes of it worth nearly 7000*l.*—they were at some little distance from the place; but the shock was so great that the casks burst.

"In short, it is a scene of misery which no language can describe. The churches are filled with the dead. A friend of mine, just come from the ruins, says, that he was walking over them, when he lighted on the head of a woman. Her whole body was crushed flat; and although it is only a few hours since the general calamity took place, her body, owing to the intense heat, was entirely putrified.—Nothing farther has yet been ascertained.

"It is supposed, however, that the men were employed in cutting away the fuses from the shells or doing something like that, when by some means, a spark arose. The merchants here have begun a subscription of twenty pounds each, for the relief of the poor sufferers. A whole town, I may say, is destroyed.

"The accident happened this morning about a quarter past six o'clock. They say there are now buried in the ruins one thousand barrels of gunpowder that are in danger; but I trust in God it is untrue, for were that blow up it would bring all Malta in ruins. May the Almighty avert such another disaster.

DEATH OF MR. FOX.

Perhaps there never was a man with whose conduct and principles the nation at large has been universally and so intimately acquainted as the great man whose lamented death we have now to record. The superiority of his talents—their powerful and frequent adaption to popular purposes—his representation of the populous, and, in some measure, metropolitan city of Westminster, where he necessarily lived and acted in the bosom of his constituents—his easiness of access—his pleasant, social spirit—his friendly disposition and conciliating manner—the tender which appeared in all he said, and the good nature

which predominated in all he did, were qualities which rendered him, as it were, a personal acquaintance of the country; and of all political men the best known to the people.

Mr. Fox was the second son of Henry, the first Lord HOLLAND, and was born Jan. 13, O. S. 1749. Eton was the place of his education, and while he was there he gave a promise of those talents which have since been so amply fulfilled. From thence he proceeded to Oxford, where he resigned his classic pursuits to dramatic literature.—It has been said, that during his residence at Oxford he read every play in the English language. He finished his education by the usual tour through Europe; and on his return to England, was elected into Parliament for Midhurst, a considerable time before he was of age; when he became the champion of Ministers, voted against the Middlesex election, and the first speech he made in Parliament was against Mr. Wilkes.

He was appointed a Lord of the admiralty, resigned in disgust, was a second time appointed, and afterwards removed to the Treasury Board, from whence he was dismissed; and all these political vicissitudes befell him before he had completed his 25th year. It may also be added as an unexampled circumstance in the career of politics, that, before he had attained the age of 24 years, he was the ablest supporter of the Ministry throughout a whole session; and, in the course of the succeeding year, one of his most powerful and dangerous opponents. His sudden removal from the Treasury Board was announced to him in the following laconic epistle:

"His Majesty has thought proper to order a new Commission of Treasury to be made out in which I do not see your name."

"NORTH."

Mr. Fox now entered the lists of opposition, and throughout the whole of the American war, proved a most powerful antagonist to the Ministers of that period. On the downfall of Lord North, he was appointed one of the Secretaries of State, which situation he resigned on the death of the Marquis of Rockingham, when the Earl of Shelburne, since created Marquis of Lansdowne, was appointed to succeed him. On the dissolution of that short lived administration, he formed the coalition with Lord North, and resumed his former office. He now brought in his India bill, which, after having passed the House of commons, was unexpectedly thrown out by the House of Lords, and occasioned the resignation of the Ministry, of which he formed a part.

Mr. Fox accordingly resumed his powerful station on the bench of opposition.—The Regency, the trial of Mr. Hastings, and above all the French Revolution, and its relative effects to this country, gave him ample opportunity to display his talents & eloquence, both of which he continued to display against the administration of Mr. Pitt with the intervention of the period, when he thought proper to secede from his Parliamentary duty. The death of that Minister occasioned his recall to power.

Of his eloquence and debating powers, it is not easy to speak in terms that can convey an adequate idea of them. His speeches may be considered as among the finest examples of argumentation, abounding in pointed observations and just conclusions, clothed with forcible expression and delivered with manly boldness. The leading characteristic of his oratory was a ready, and as it were intuitive power of analysis, which he possessed beyond any man now living.

As to his political conduct, we shall not attempt to enlarge upon the subject of such wide extent, of such complicated parts and and abounding in concerns of so much weight and importance. A large volume would scarcely be sufficient to contain it; and to attempt to reduce it into a column, would be to disgrace the subject, and disgust the reader. To the historian we shall leave that difficult and laborious task. To that department, alas! Mr. Fox himself is now consigned; and the writers, whose office it is to "catch the manners living as they rise," must quit a subject which Death has delivered over to a superior jurisdiction.

In all situations and circumstances, he was dear to his friends; those who have known him longest appear to have loved him best; and it is a remarkable circumstance, but the fact is so, that those who attended and wept round his deathbed, had been, among many others, the companions of his youth, and the friends of his whole life.

In short Mr. Fox was among the distinguished characters which nature seems to have prepared and ripened to become the ornaments of the present reign.

We lament that the country is deprived of such a man. He had done much towards laying the first stone of the Temple of Peace; and much do we wish, that he had lived to see it rise into strength, under his auspices.

He possessed in an high degree the talent which distinguishes man, and the genius that elevates him; nor was he without a portion of that virtue which is superior to them both. As Mr. Burke has observed, and when he was in intimate friendship with him, his faults, though they might tarnish the lustre, and sometimes impede the march of his abilities, were not formed to extinguish the fire of great virtues. In his faults there was no mixture of deceit, of hypocrisy, of pride, of ferocity, or complexional despotism.—Edinburgh paper.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 17.

The following gentlemen came up last evening from the Hook, in the pilot boat Thorn, passengers in the ship New Guide, viz Messrs. Cumins, Hay, Walker, Shepherd, Buckley, and Hadden. They inform the editors of the Gazette, that the New Guide sailed from Liverpool the 5th September, at which time there was no prospect of Peace; although Lord Lauderdale had not yet returned. Lord Howie had been appointed secretary for foreign affairs, in the place of Mr. Fox.—Mr. T. Grenville had succeeded Lord Howie as first lord of the admiralty; and Lord Sidmouth and others had resigned and were appointed to fill the other vacancies in the administration. There are London papers on board as late as the 26th September.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 18.

MIRANDA.—A gentleman arrived at Boston on the 10th inst. in 22 days from Barbadoes, (via the Vineyard) informs that he left Miranda at Barbadoes, where he had arrived to seek additional forces after unsuccessful attacks on Coro, Maracibo and Little Gibraltar. The Barbadoes papers speak very favorably of Miranda's prospects.

November 19.

A very remarkable occurrence has taken place in the western country, the new territory of Michigan, exhibits the phenomenon of a banking institution—where the only trade carried on, is a barter of peltry for manufactures.—Aurora.

The establishment of a bank in Michigan, merits some inquiry. What is the object? Who are the concerned? Whence does the capital come? Under what circumstances? The territory being under the United States jurisdiction, is the existence of such an institution compatible with the charter of the bank of the United States? What effect is it intended to produce? Is it calculated for mere speculation, and the scheme of speculators, or is it connected with any OTHER VIEWS?—Had the institution any color of legal foundation—are the officers of the government any wise concerned in it?

These questions all afford ample subjects for enquiry. As several numbers of this paper go into that district, some of our intelligent and independent men, may give useful information upon these topics, which certainly carry a very singular appearance—and connected with other particulars of which we have heard some cursory discourse, demand attention from the national government.—ib.

WASHINGTON CITY, Nov. 15.

It has been our custom, occasionally to announce the progress of the inland navigation of the Potomac; and we have now much pleasure in stating from the best authority, that the Canal and Locks near Harper's Ferry, are either actually completed, or in such a state as to be certainly completed within a few days.

For several miles from the junction of the Shenandoah with the Potomac, nature had opposed very formidable obstructions to navigation, which this Canal and these Locks remove. The whole products of the fine country of the Shenandoah, almost as high up as Staunton, can now be water borne to the District of Columbia; and if only a part should find this cheap and easy conveyance to market, so early as the ensuing spring, it will be occasioned by the want of a sufficient number of boats for the transportation of the whole, and not for want of good navigation.

When this great enterprise, the Potomac navigation on which has been expended more than half a million of dollars, was first commenced under the auspices of Gen. Washington, now upwards of 20 years ago, it was the opinion of that accurate observer, that the tolls on the produce from the Shenandoah alone, would pay more than interest on the whole capital to be employed in the work:—that at that time the country on the Shenandoah did not send annually to market, less than the amount of 300,000 barrels of flour, in wheat and flour. Since that time, the country has greatly increased, both in population and cultivation.

Of the whole distance of inland navigation, west of the city of Washington, computed at 800 miles, including the main branch of Potomac, and such of its tributary streams as are susceptible of improvement by navigation, we may now count upon as completed, at least partially completed, about 560 miles—to wit:

The main branch of Potomac from the tide of New-Creek	230 miles
17 miles above Cumberland	
The Shenandoah from its junction with Potomac	160 miles

The Monocacy 30 miles
We say partially completed, because there are still obstructions between Harper's Ferry and New-Creek, which forbid the use of that part of the river more than two or three months in ordinary years—but from Harper's Ferry to the tide, and for about 75 miles of the Shenandoah and 20 of the Monocacy, we may safely calculate a tolerable navigation for 4 to 6 months in the year; and if we could reduce our boats to draw only 12 inches water loaded, which surely might be done, we should have the use of the best part of the river for 9 months in the year, and of the whole from 4 to 6.

It is for others—for those better versed in the science of commercial arithmetic, to draw inferences. It is for us, to content ourselves with a bare relation of facts; but we may be allowed to congratulate our fellow-citizens of the District, in general, and of George-Town in particular, on the prospects before them.

While we are speaking of improvements interesting to the people of the City and Georgetown, the bridge erecting over the river near the little falls should not pass without observation. It is even doubted whether it is not an object of greater interest, particularly in Georgetown, than the inland navigation itself. This bridge we are informed will be possible for waggon this day. The road over it affords the most direct communication to a very important part of Virginia, and brings the people of several counties to a market at Georgetown, several miles nearer than to any other.—For this public work of so much utility to a large portion of the country, as well as to the town itself, we are entirely indebted to the public spirit of Georgetown, which has also largely contributed to the present state of the Potomac navigation.

About the time the government removed to the City, it seemed to be the fashion of Georgetown, situated as it is, at the head navigation of a fine river, with a country of immense extent at the back of it, abounding in resources for commerce, to do little for itself, and to hope every thing from its great natural advantages.—But for a few years past, this reproach has been far removed from the town. Whoever will take a view of the improvements recently made, in the town and by the town, will confess that whatever of prosperity the citizens are destined to enjoy, has been well merited by their public spirit, and their enterprise.

Washington Federalist.

November 19.

We have the satisfaction of confirming the information of the Spanish forces hav-